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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ZOLO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.** [US/US]; 4946 North 63rd Street, Boulder, CO 80301 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **MASTERSON, Bernard, Patrick** [US/US]; 325 West Eisenhower Drive, Louisville, CO 80027 (US). **HUELSON, Eric,**

C. [US/US]; 600 Boyd Street, Golden, CO 80403 (US). **SMITH, Ian, S.** [GB/US]; 4715 Tally Ho Court, Boulder, CO 80301 (US).

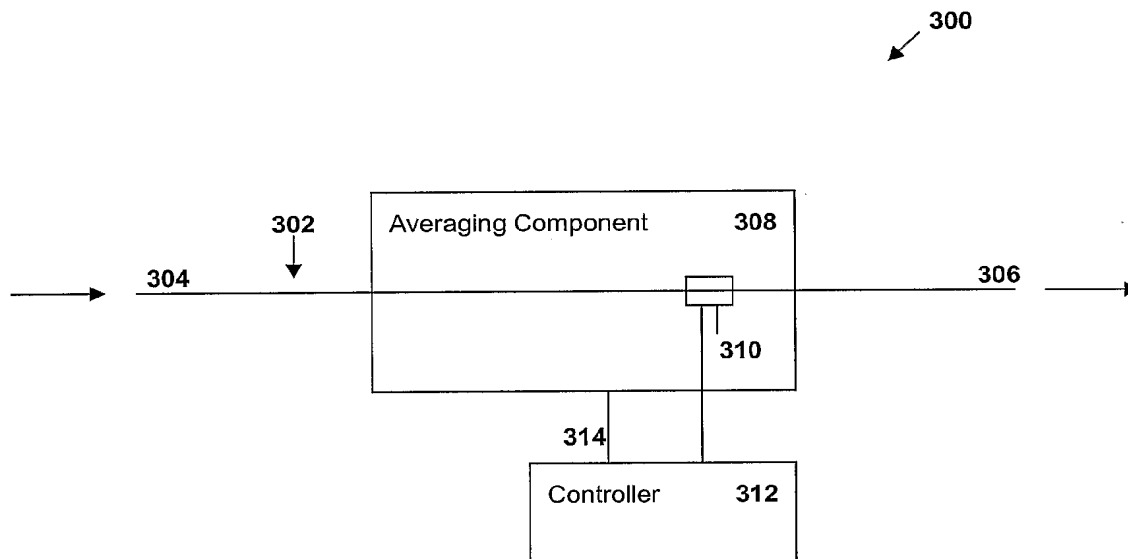
(74) Agents: **SWANSON, Barry, J.** et al.; Swanson & Bratschun, LLC, 1745 Shea Center Drive, Suite 330, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129 (US).

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(54) Title: OPTICAL MODE NOISE AVERAGING DEVICE



(57) Abstract: An optical mode noise averaging device (300) including a multimode optical fiber (302) and means (308) for averaging a modal noise induced signal level variation of light propagating within the multimode optical fiber (302). The device may average modal noise induced signal level variations by cyclically varying an index of refraction of the multimode optical fiber (302) over a select period of time, scrambling a light distribution within the multimode optical fiber (302), or both. The index of refraction of the multimode optical fiber may be cyclically varied by cyclically varying the temperature of the multimode optical fiber (302). Alternatively, the index for refraction may be varied or the light distribution within the multimode optical fiber may be scrambled by cyclically manipulating the multimode optical fiber (302).

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